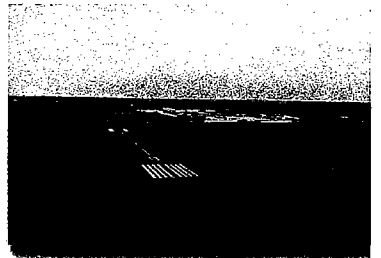




*GREELEY-
WELD COUNTY
AIRPORT™*

Master Plan



Carter=Burgess / QED

2004

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1.0 Introduction

The Greeley-Weld County Airport has become a significant component in Colorado's system of general aviation airports. General aviation activity has become a major growth factor at the airport. With total activity levels of approaching 150,000, accommodating these levels of activity is one of the challenges of the future due to the existing landside and airspace constraints.

Based on these conditions, this master planning study is being undertaken to update the existing Greeley-Weld County Airport Master Plan and Development Program and develop long-range guidance that will allow for orderly development at Greeley-Weld County Airport enabling it to continue to meet the City and Counties air transportation needs.

Because this study is emphasizing the airport's role in serving the community, both in service levels and environmental compatibility, a broad spectrum of individual concerns is involved. These concerns are not limited to aviation or planning issues. Mutual understanding and constructive dialogue is required among all portions of the affected citizenry to lead to the development of an effective plan.

Study Goals and Objectives

Airport master planning studies are the vehicles established to prepare plans for individual airports throughout the country. While the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) mandates the general approach and format, the success of such study efforts largely depends on the goals and objectives of the plan. If the plan is responsive to community goals and objectives, its effectiveness is greatly increased. **Figure 1.1** graphically presents the master plan process.

Goals and objectives are the essential bridge between technical evaluation of alternative plans and the needs of the community. The evaluation process combines quantitative standards or relatively precise criteria with qualitative judgments. Setting goals and objectives in the planning process directs the quantitative ranking and judgments toward conformity with underlying values.

The overall goal of this study is to prepare a comprehensive Master Plan update for the Greeley-Weld County Airport. This plan will provide guidelines for the orderly development of airport facilities necessary to meet the area's needs through the year 2023. Preparation of the updated plan will be accomplished in a manner consistent with the Greeley-Weld County Airport Authority's needs and in conformance with applicable guidelines set fourth by the FAA.

The objectives of the study are related to physical, social, environmental, and economic concerns of how the airport facilities should develop. The physical objectives for the new airport master plan study would provide for the development of facilities and services in a manner consistent with, and complimentary to local economic and social development. The following objectives have been identified as being significant to the development of the proposed planning efforts.

- To provide airport facilities and services for all users in a manner that maximizes safety, efficiency, and opportunity for use.
- To consider safety as a primary factor in all decision-making situations in the development of the airport.

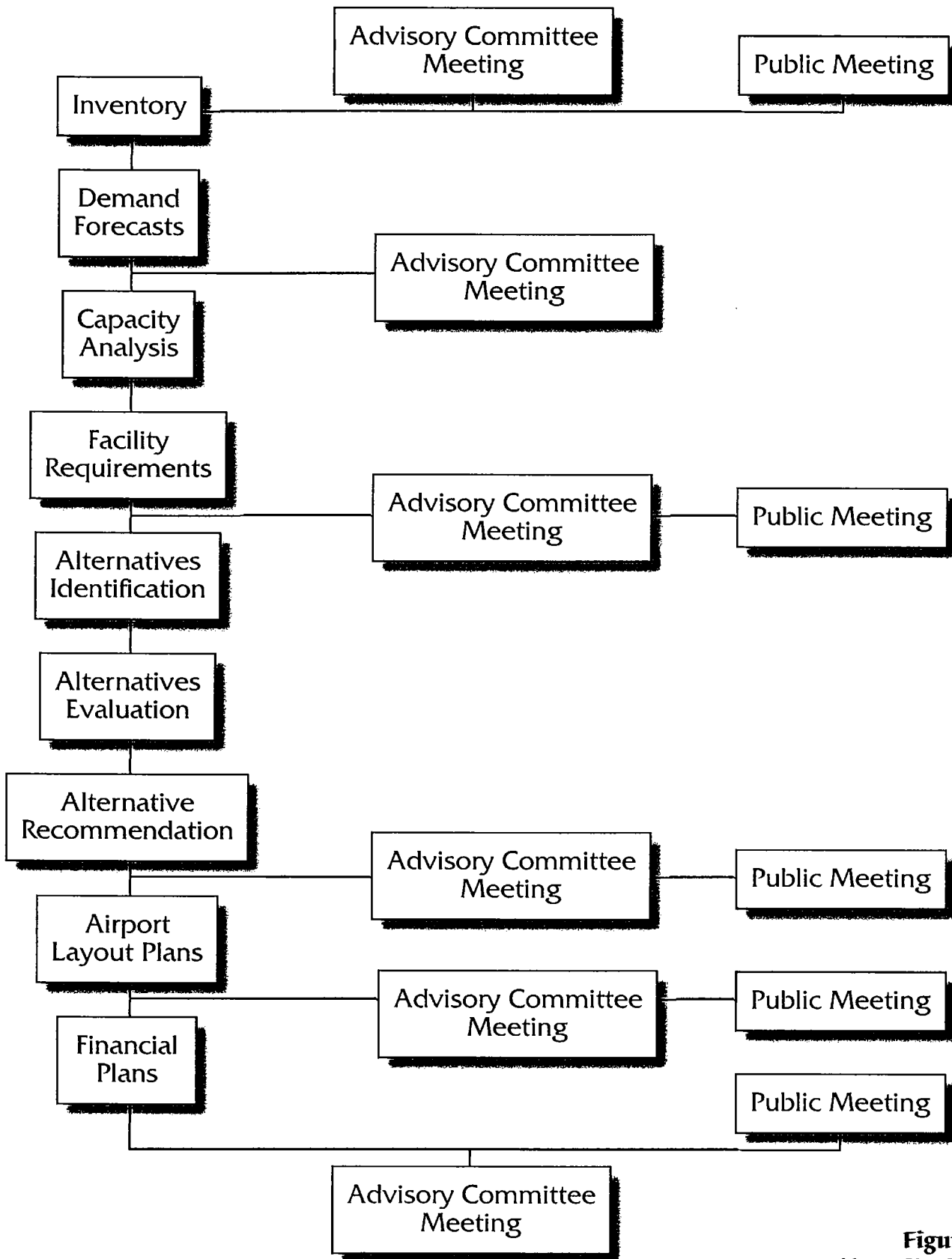


Figure 1.1
Master Plan Process

- To develop Greeley-Weld County Airport in a manner which meets acceptable physical development standards preferred by Federal, state, and local agencies.
- To provide improvements necessary to meet acceptable performance standards for parameters such as airport capacity.
- To develop the airport in a manner which conforms, as nearly as possible, to the environmental concerns in state and Federal legislation.
- To identify improvements necessary to ensure adequate surface access facilities to the airport facilities.
- To ensure compatibility with local land use patterns and plans.
- To strive for the minimal amount of noise impact and air and water pollution as is feasible in the development of the airport facilities.
- To identify priorities for allocation of financial resources.
- To enhance the opportunities for local economic development and improved employment consistent with local growth policies and plans.
- To develop a public awareness of the airport planning and development process.
- To encourage and utilize comments from all sectors of the aviation community in developing an airport master plan that can be adopted, endorsed, and implemented.
- To ensure that the public, along with federal, state, and local officials, has an opportunity to participate in the decision-making process during the development of the plan.

Study Approach

To meet the study goals objectives, the study process was designed to systematically identify the level of aviation demand to be generated; determine the adequacy of the existing facilities to accommodate this demand; recommend those facility additions which are required; identify a number of alternative ways to accomplish the recommended development and choose the preferred option; develop a detailed set of planning drawings that graphically depict all aspects of the plan recommendations; and develop a realistic, implementable plan for financing the facilities improvements. The development of the plan took place within the context of a public coordination program that incorporated community input into all important study decisions. The steps for completing the study included:

- **Airport Requirements:** The first phase produced a determination of anticipated growth in aviation demand at Greeley-Weld County Airport, an evaluation of airport capacity, and the identification of short-, intermediate-, and long-range development needed to service that demand.

- **Analysis of Alternatives:** The second phase identified and evaluated alternative ways to meet the facility requirements. This culminated in the selection of a recommended development plan.
- **Airport Plans:** In the third phase planning drawings were prepared depicting existing facilities; proposed development; on-airport land uses; and clear zones, obstructions, and FAR Part 77 requirements.
- **Financial Plans:** The fourth phase involved proposed development staging, cost estimates, and an economic feasibility analysis.

Public Participation

An Airport Advisory Committee (AAC) served during the development of this Master Plan. The basic role of the advisory committee was to review the plans and proposals of the consultant, interact with them during the review, make consensus recommendations, and, finally, endorse the recommendations of the completed study.

During the course of the study working papers were prepared at the completion of major study elements. At each of these strategic decision points, draft copies of the latest completed chapter(s) were submitted to allow the Airport Authority, city, county, and the appropriate committee an opportunity to review and evaluate the work efforts, results, and conclusion of each element. This set the stage for AAC public information meetings that provided a forum for questions, recommendations, and discussion of what would be involved in the next element. This study process offered all of those concerned a voice in the proceedings, kept everyone informed, and precluded the possibility that unexpected or unrealistic recommendations will be delivered at the end of the study.

Although the AAC had no binding decision-making power of their own, their recommendations were essential to the development of plans that are both realistic and feasible in order that implementations may be accomplished through the normal regulatory process.

Public Participation Meetings

Public informational meetings were held—some were at the same time as the AAC meetings. Materials were presented concerning the study's purpose, progress, findings, and recommendations as appropriate. These public participation meetings served two essential purposes: 1) to obtain input necessary to identify local concerns; and, 2) to provide for discussion of problems, ways to solve those problems, and the reasons for choosing given solutions.

